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THE SUGAR INDUSTRY OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Exports and Imports for the Year 1901

TOTAL PRODUCTION FOR THE ISLANDS OF OAHU, HAWAII, MAUI AND KAUAI OVER TWENTY-SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS ENORMOUS INCREASE IN PRODUCTION FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS

PEARL HARBOR AS A NAVAL STATION EARLY COMPLETION OF THE PACIFIC CABLE TO HONOLULU

DESCRIPTION OF SUGAR ESTATES IN WHICH MILLIONS OF AMERICAN MONEY IS INVESTED

[COMPILED BY T. C. HOWELL.]

THE annexation of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States Government on August 12, 1898, marked a more rapid development in the entire group of islands, which princely possessions are today sending forth to the most remote parts of the world the products of the soil. Sugar is the dominant product of all the islands, and it is to that commodity principally that Honolulu, the capital city of the Hawaiian Islands, can trace its era of prosperity and rapid development.

The Hawaiian Islands are situated in the Torrid Zone just south of the Tropic of Cancer. They extend from northwest to southeast between parallels of latitude 22 degrees 16 minutes and 18 degrees 55 minutes and are embraced between meridians 154 degrees 40 minutes and 160 degrees 30 minutes west from Greenwich. The important islands are eight in number, Niihau, Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Maui, Lanai, Kahoolawe and Hawaii. Of these Niihau and Kahoolawe are principally devoted to grazing. This group is also known as the Sandwich Islands, a title given by Captain Cook, but now in disuse except abroad.

	Area in Square Miles.	Acres.
Hawaii	4210	2,500,000
Maui	760	400,000
Oahu	600	360,000
Kauai	580	350,000
Molokai	270	200,000
Lanai	150	100,000
Niihau	97	70,000
Kahoolawe	63	30,000

The soil of the islands is of decomposed lava enriched by vegetable mould. In the rainy sections such as Hilo and Hanalei it is exceedingly fertile. In dry sections it becomes equally productive by means of irrigation. A degree of acidity in some of the dry sections is corrected by proper fertilizers. There are many sections like Ewa, on the island of Oahu, where the soil is an accumulation of washes from the mountains, which leave alluvial deposits of exceeding richness. Irrigation was formerly accomplished by ditches connecting with mountain streams and sources. Recently, more especially on the islands of Oahu, Maui and Kauai, the supply of water in great abundance has come from artesian wells, both flowing and pumping.

The staple product of the islands is sugar cane. Soil and conditions are of the most

favorable character for yield, and a scientific and intelligent direction of the labor and appliances necessary to its production have resulted in phenomenal yields per acre, more particularly at the Ewa, Wai-lua, Oahu and Honolulu plantations, on the island of Oahu. Mills of the highest type of invention and sugar machinery of equal merit contribute to an output unequalled by a like area anywhere else on the globe.

The output for the season of 1901 was 360,000 tons of raw sugar, which will be largely increased for the mill season of 1902.

Hawaii has often been styled the cross-roads of the Pacific. The completion of the Nicaragua canal, the laying of a cable and the construction of United States Naval headquarters at Pearl Harbor will justify and confirm this appellation beyond a doubt, and its ports will receive additional rank and importance. Even now these islands furnish a trade and commerce with the United States of greater tonnage and value than any country except Great Britain, and this with the one staple industry of sugar. Coffee is an industry fairly through the experimental stage, but the low price for that article of commerce prevailing at the present time, coupled with the high rate of wages demanded by the laborer, has a tendency to prevent a very great expansion of the industry. The ports of entry are Honolulu, Hilo, Kahului, Mahukona and Koloa. Honolulu possesses a fine though small harbor. Hilo has a large open harbor, and when proper breakwaters are completed for its protection and wharves line its shores a steady stream of trade will ensue. Kahului, on the island of Maui, possesses a fine harbor and the amount of tonnage in and out for the past year was 125,000 tons. By the time the harbor of Honolulu becomes inadequate for the demands of commerce, Pearl Harbor, a few miles distant, will be

opened and the vessels of the world may ride in safety upon its broad bosom. As Hawaii is almost entirely given over to sugar cane, rice and coffee, nearly all our breadstuffs, hay, grain and manufactured articles are imported from the United States. That the islands will never produce its own food or other necessities is patent to the most superficial observer. Cane and rice are of such a profitable nature as to render the purchase of other articles more advantageous than their production. The balance of trade being so large in favor of the islands divests their commerce of all risk and uncertainty. Honolulu is peculiarly favored as a seaport. The distances are, to San Francisco, 2100 miles; to Yokohama, 3400 miles; to Sydney, 4484 miles; to Manila, 4961 miles. It is a geographical center between Occidental and Oriental coasts.

The commercial magnitude of the Hawaiian Islands and the important position they occupy in the United States possessions will be thoroughly appreciated on glancing over the appended tabulation taken from the report of the Collector General of Customs for the year ending June 30th, which has been marked by several important and notable characteristics: first, a continuation of the phenomenal imports of last year with a remarkable increase; second, an enormous increase in exports; and, third, the combined imports and exports form the largest total ever shown by a single year in the history of the country.

In connection with the wonderful development of the industries of the islands, and more particularly the increased yield of sugar, the following is noted: Total value of exports of the Hawaiian Islands to all countries for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1901, was \$2,793,472, while the earnings of the Customs Department for the same period, from all sources, was \$1,219,338.79.

EXPORTS OF SUGAR TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1901.

	QUANTITY. POUNDS.	VALUE.
UNITED STATES—		
MONTH—1900—		
JULY	49,772,323	\$ 2,028,253
AUGUST	41,875,555	1,684,205
SEPTEMBER	53,936,747	2,164,014
OCTOBER	34,228,202	1,522,115
NOVEMBER	12,437,951	547,731
DECEMBER	26,626,671	1,096,068
MONTH—1901—		
JANUARY	28,038,101	1,142,461
FEBRUARY	54,435,034	2,233,961
MARCH	55,689,846	2,188,576
APRIL	68,265,145	2,557,376
MAY	110,115,742	4,106,367
JUNE	155,456,617	5,852,916
TOTAL	690,877,934	\$27,093,863
AUSTRALIA—		
MONTH—1901—		
JUNE	1,300	60
GRAND TOTAL	690,879,234	\$27,093,923

